

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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PRICE 1/3

Jason and the Golden Fleece.
See page 18



The Sleeping Princess



1. The wicked Ice Fairy had cast a magic spell upon the baby princess, saying that she would one day prick her finger on a spinning-wheel needle and fall asleep for a hundred years. But the King made up his mind that such an awful thing would never happen. "Send word to all citizens of my Kingdom," he ordered.

2. "Tell them that every spinning-wheel must be brought here and burnt at once, and that no new ones shall ever be made." What a sight it was, when the people crowded into the market place and cast their spinning-wheels upon a huge bonfire, which crackled and roared. The children thought it great fun.



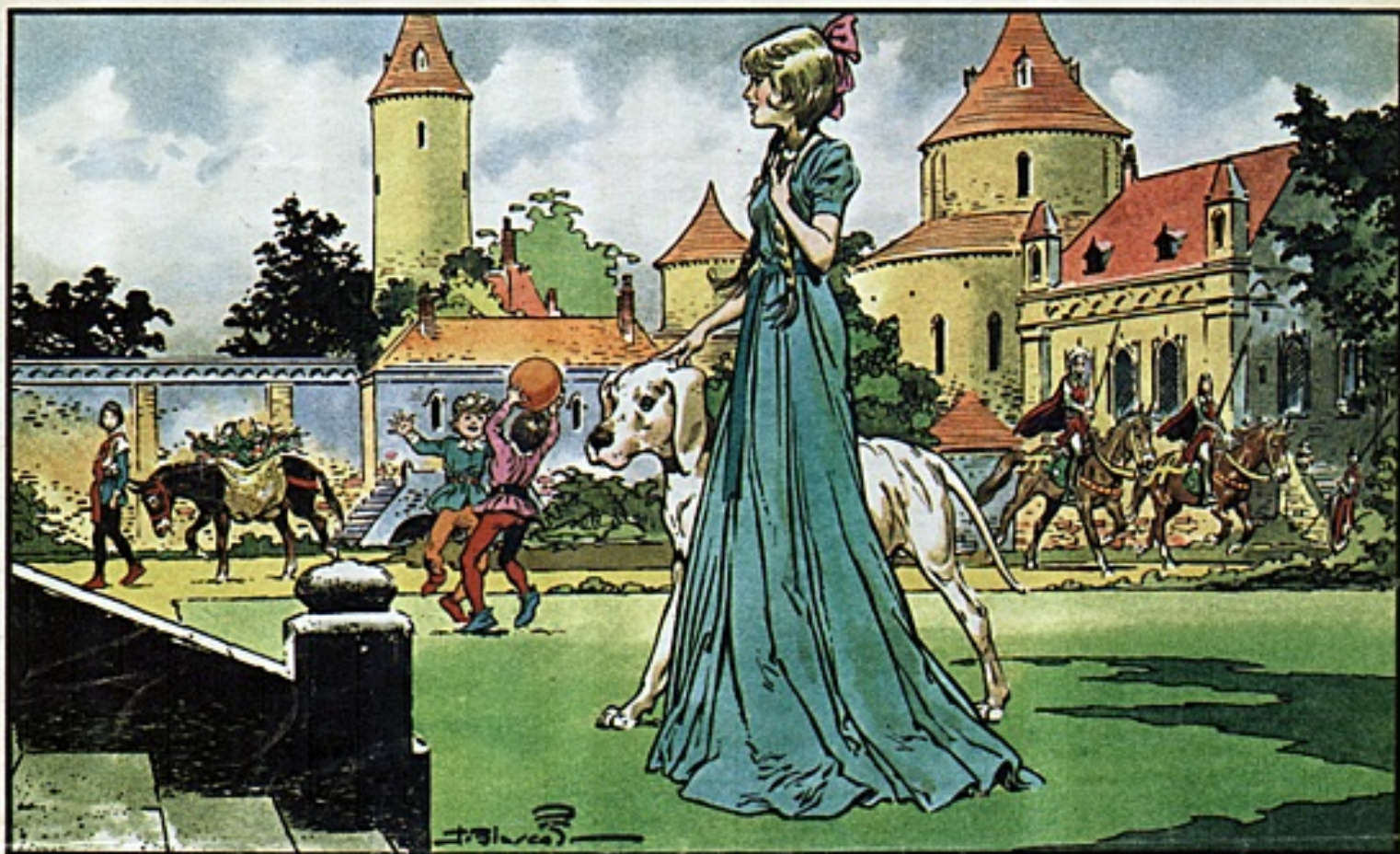
3. There was now no spinning-wheel in all the Kingdom, and the King and Queen felt much relieved, and watched their lovely little daughter grow up.



4. When she was a charming little girl of eight, everybody was in love with her—even the animals of the Kingdom, who came to her to be fed and cuddled.



5. At seventeen, the princess could play all musical instruments, as one of the good fairies had promised. The King and Queen were so delighted.



6. When she was eighteen years old, the sweet princess was so happy and contented that she felt that life was wonderful. By now she was the fairest in all the land and she loved to be out in the sunshine on the castle lawn. Here, she walked with her faithful dog and watched people working and children playing.

7. On that day, however, she happened to take more notice than usual of a tall tower on the far side of the lawn. "Why is it that I have never been able to get to that tower?" she wondered to herself. "It seems strange, too, that nobody ever seems to go there and that there is never a sign of people living in it."



8. Feeling curious, she made up her mind to go and see what went on inside that strange tower. With a quick glance round to make sure that nobody was staring at her, she hurried across the lawn, through a twisting pathway to a door. "And there's a key in the door," she thought. "Dare I take a peep inside?"



9. Her hand trembled a little as she tried the key. It turned quite easily and she peeped into the tower. "What a strange place—it's so musty and damp," she said. "But there must be somebody who uses it, or else there would not be a key to the door." A little nervous, but even more curious, she went in.

Who will the princess find in the tower? More of this story next week.



1. **The Kingfisher.** A truly beautiful bird, which lives near water and eats small fish and water insects.



2. **Love Birds.** They belong to the parrot family and perch close together. That is why they are called love birds.



These are our "Allsorts" pages. Every week you can see all sorts of Allsorts. **THIS WEEK:**

All Sorts of



3. **The Waxwing.** Many of its feathers are tipped with red, like sealing wax. It lives in Northern Europe.



4. **The Hoopoe.** A lovely crested bird, which makes its home in Britain. Its greatest enemy is the hawk.



5. **The Queztl.** A bird from central South America, much admired for its long, graceful tail-feathers.



6. **The Bell-bird.** It gets its name from its own song, which is like the sound of a silver bell. From South America.

Beautiful Birds



7. **Cock-of-the-Rock.** The male bird, a brilliant red in colour, loves to dance and show-off to the females.



8. **The Manakin.** This little bird has the strange habit of jumping up and down on a branch as it sings.



BRER RABBIT

Brer Rabbit tricks Brer Fox again. By Barbara Hayes.

NOW one time, that naughty Brer Rabbit had been eating so much greenstuff from the garden of Mr. Man that Mr. Man set a trap for Brer Rabbit.

And Brer Rabbit was so greedy that, for once, he forgot to keep his wits about him and he walked right into the trap.

Well, of course, it wasn't long before Mr. Man came back to look at his trap and when he saw old Brer Rabbit he called out:

"Well, you're a fine fellow, you are! You've been gobbling up my greenstuff for too long. Now that I've caught you, I'm going to get even with you!"

And with that Mr. Man went off into the bushes to get a handful of sticks.

Well, old Brer Rabbit, he didn't say anything, but he felt mighty lonely dangling there and thinking that every moment might be his last.

But in a little while, who should come parading along, but Brer Fox?

Brer Fox made a great to-do about the fix he found Brer Rabbit in.

But Brer Rabbit, he pretended to be roaring with laughter and he told Brer Fox, he did, that his friend Miss Meadows and her daughters had invited him to a wedding.

"I said I couldn't go," explained Brer Rabbit, "and they

said that I should. So after a lot of arguing they tied me up here while they went to tell the vicar about the wedding. They said that now I can't run off before they come back.

"But," Brer Rabbit went on to Brer Fox, "my children are mighty ill with a fever and I *must* get some pills for them. So, please, Brer Fox, take my place and go to the wedding

and have a good time with Miss Meadows and the girls."

Of course, Brer Rabbit's children hadn't got fever at all. That was another of Brer Rabbit's fibs. Isn't he naughty?

Now, Brer Fox was very fond of parties with Miss Meadows and it wasn't long before Brer Fox had untied Brer Rabbit and taken his place.

Off raced Brer Rabbit at once and he was hardly out of sight before Mr. Man came up with a big stick.

When he saw Brer Fox, he was astonished.

"Hallo!" said Mr. Man, "you've changed colour and you have got *bigger* and your *tail* has grown. What kind of animal are you, anyway?"

Brer Fox kept still.

"Well, never mind," went on Mr. Man, "you may not look like the chap who nibbles my greens but you certainly look like the fellow who has been sneaking off with my geese."

And with that Mr. Man set to with the stick.

The way he dusted Brer Fox's jacket with that stick was a warning to any other animal that felt like eating Mr. Man's greens or sneaking off with his geese.

Brer Fox, he jumped and squealed and he squalled, but Mr. Man just carried on whacking him.

Well, by and by, Mr. Man decided that he needed another stick and he went off to the bushes again.

As soon as Mr. Man was out of hearing Brer Rabbit showed up again.

"Brer Fox," he said, "it certainly is

mighty funny that Miss Meadows hasn't turned up yet, because I've had time to go to the doctor's house and that's farther away than the vicar's house."

Of course, none of it was true at all, Brer Rabbit was just teasing Brer Fox.

Then Brer Rabbit made as if to hurry home, but Brer Fox snarled:

"I'll thank you to turn me loose, Brer Rabbit. Do you know you tied me too tightly and my head swims so much that I don't think I can last out until Miss Meadows gets back?"

Brer Rabbit, he sat down comfortably and scratched one ear like a man thinking about something.

"Well, Brer Fox," he said, "you do look

sort of ruffled up. Just as if someone had been brushing your hair the wrong way."

Brer Fox didn't say anything, but Brer Rabbit kept on talking.

"There isn't any bad feeling between us, is there, Brer Fox?" he asked. "Because if there is, I'm not going to untie you."

Brer Fox said there was no bad feeling at all.

So Brer Rabbit cut Brer Fox loose and then, as they heard Mr. Man coming back, they both sped away as fast as their legs would carry them.

There will be another tale of that scamp Brer Rabbit next week.





Beautiful Paintings

This is another splendid painting of a great Redskin warrior by the famous artist Frank Humphris. Here is the mighty Chief Rain-in-the-Face in all his splendour. Like Sitting Bull, whose portrait was pub-

lished a few weeks ago, Rain-in-the-Face fought in the great battle on the banks of the Little Bighorn River, when Lieutenant-Colonel Custer and all his American soldiers were killed.



This is a memory test. Read it carefully and then turn to page 16 and have fun trying to answer the questions that are printed there.

The Merry Knight

ISN'T this a jolly picture? Do you know who that laughing fat man is? Your Mummy and Daddy will know. His name is Sir John Falstaff and he is the comic knight who plays a big part in some of the plays written by William Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare was the world's greatest poet and yet we know very, very little about his life. We know he was born in Stratford-Upon-Avon in 1564, married a girl named Anne Hathaway, had three children, came to London where he acted in plays, wrote plays and poems and then returned to Stratford, where he died in 1616, only 52 years old.

That is about all we can be sure of

about William Shakespeare's life, and yet the whole world honours him as one of the greatest writers that ever lived.

Sir John Falstaff appears in Shakespeare's plays about the Kings Henry the Fourth and Henry the Fifth and in another play called "The Merry Wives of Windsor", in which Falstaff plays the main part.

He was a thief and a boaster, a coward and a glutton, and yet he was the great friend of Prince Henry, who later reigned as Henry the Fifth. The truth was that Falstaff could make people laugh and so the young Prince Henry forgave Falstaff for his many faults.

In the end, though, when Prince Henry

was made King of England, he threw Falstaff aside. Falstaff, who was now an old man, found this hard to believe; and so Falstaff, the big fat figure of fun, suddenly became a very sad and tragic figure.

One day, when you are older and start to read William Shakespeare's plays, or see them acted on the stage, you will learn a lot more about Sir John Falstaff, the merry fat man. William Shakespeare must have liked him very much indeed to have put him into more than one of his plays.



Silver Moon

WHEN Silver Moon, the beautiful Chinese princess, told the two black swans about herself, they made sad clacking noises with their bright red beaks.

"Tut-tut, alas, alack," they said. "The poor princess has a strange illness and is never able to sleep a wink at night."

So off they flew on their great whirring wings to see what Pik and Pok, the little magic-makers of the Moon, could do about it.

"Great toads and frogs—and cats and dogs," said Pik to his little brother Pok. "We must have a good think about this and help pretty Silver Moon if we can."

As you can see, Pik and Pok were two bright little gnomes, dressed all in blue with star-shaped bobbles on their hats. And when they were thinking, or working a bit of their special Moon magic, sparks flew from the bobbles of their hats like little coloured shooting stars.

"What shall we do?" asked Pok. "To cure wide-awakeness in children we usually use

star-dust sprinkled on the eyelids, but Silver Moon seems to be a special case."

They started to think hard.

"How about a bedtime story?"

"Or a goodnight kiss?"

"Or a sprinkle of extra-strong sleepy star-dust on the pillow?"

"Or a hot water bottle?"

"Or singing a lullaby?"

"Or a drink of water?"

Pik and Pok finished up by both of them shaking their heads.

"No, nothing like that will work with Princess Silver Moon," they said. "It must be something super special."

So they asked the Man in the Moon, who always had a good view of what was going on in the Earth.

"In India, which is not all that far from China, there lives a good-looking prince named Amon," he said. "If you can persuade him to fall in love with Silver Moon at first glance, then her illness will be cured."

"How can that be?" asked Pik. "Silver



Moon is so tired that she could never make the journey."

"And King Banzibar, the father of Amon, will hardly ever let the Prince out of his sight," said Pok. "He is afraid that the Prince might be attacked by a tiger in the valleys, or captured by bandits in the mountains. How can he fall in love with Silver Moon without being able to see her?"

"All things are possible with the help of a little Moon magic," replied the wise Man of the Moon. "If Silver Moon cannot herself be taken to Prince Amon, then you must take a likeness of her."

Pik and Pok understood what he meant and set off at once for the Earth, sliding down the moonbeams at great speed. And as they went, the long bobbles of their hats began to send out showers of coloured stars.

"Magic stars, now work a trick—do it well and do it quick," said Pik.

"By the Moon and North Pole Star, the princess must be carried far," said Pok.

Now Silver Moon knew nothing of what was going on. It is true that as she sat at the window of her palace, she felt a slight shimmering in the cool night air and a feeling as though somebody was looking at her.

By their magic, the little blue gnomes took away the likeness of Silver Moon, just as if they had taken her reflection from a mirror.

It was a perfect likeness and they sat it upon a silver cloud, then let it float away, steering it cleverly in the direction of India.

Over seas and mountains they went for many miles. The night air was cold, but of course Silver Moon did not feel it, because she was not really there. The lovely image of her sat serenely on the wisps of cloud.

"She is truly beautiful," whispered Pik to her brother. "I can promise you that when Prince Amon gets the first glimpse of her, he will fall in love with her without a moment's delay."

"If he does not, then he will be a very foolish fellow," Pok agreed. "I don't think there is anybody in the whole world who could resist beauty such as that."

Pik and Pok, the happy little magic-makers from the Moon, were delighted with the plan and with every mile of journey through the starry sky they became more and more sure that it would succeed.

This delightful story of Silver Moon is continued in *Once Upon A Time* next week.



The Happy Giant



1. There once lived a giant who did not like behaving as giants are supposed to behave. He hated roaring and frightening people, and wanted to be kind. The other giants were all very angry.



2. "You're a disgrace to the whole race of giants," they told him, and sent him off to find some mortals and frighten them. "If you can capture one or two, so much the better," they said.



3. Well, the giant made his way to the nearest town and roared and shouted like anything, although his heart was not in it. The town gate opened and a knight rode out to challenge him.



4. "OH, HO!" shouted the giant fiercely, at which the knight promptly fell off his horse. When the giant saw this, he ran to pick him up. "What sort of a giant are you?" asked the knight.



(Turn to next page)



8. But the townspeople came to meet him, bringing him fruit and wine, for they were so grateful to him for sparing their town. The giant WAS surprised!



9. When he told them about being banished they asked him to live with them and be their own special giant. Joyfully, he agreed.



10. He helped them with their ploughing and sowing, for he could work like twenty men. He was now the happiest giant of all.



The Wise Old Owl is here to answer many interesting questions for you.

The WISE OLD OWL

Knows all the answers



1. Why does the sea sometimes change colour?

"The real colour of sea water is green, because of millions of tiny green creatures floating in it. But the sea reflects the colour of the sky like a mirror. If the sky is blue, the sea will look blue. When the sky is grey, the sea looks grey."



2. Can some birds talk?

"Parrots, budgerigars and some other sorts of birds can be taught to say quite a lot of words, if someone spends a little time on it every day. These birds will copy the sound of a word, but they do not understand what the word means."



3. Why do stones sink and sticks float?

"In Nature there are many laws, or rules, and one of them is that light things always float on, or rise to the top of, heavier fluids. A stone is heavier than an equal amount of water, so it sinks below the surface. A log of wood is lighter than an equal amount of water, so will remain floating on the top of it."



4. How do holes get inside a loaf of bread?

"Bread is made of flour, water, salt and a wonderful thing called yeast. These are mixed together to make dough. The dough is then left for a little while before being baked, to allow the yeast to get to work on the flour and water and make thousands of little bubbles, which are the holes in a loaf."



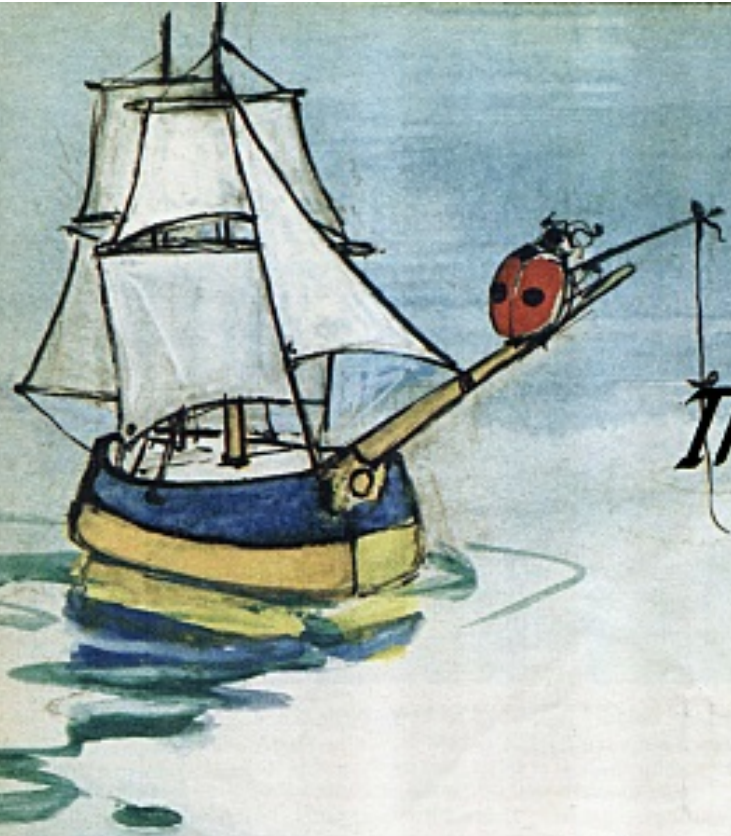
5. Is there such an animal as a unicorn?

"No. You will only read about unicorns in fairy stories and legends of long ago. The unicorn was supposed to be a horse with a silver horn right in the middle of its forehead. A lion and a unicorn are the 'royal beasts' of Great Britain, and they are shown holding the Royal Coat of Arms."



6. Why do stars shine only at night?

"Stars shine all the time, but in daylight you cannot see them. If you turn a light on in a room on a bright sunny day with sunbeams shining in through the window, the electric light will make very little difference. Stars are really like our own sun, but they are very, very far away."



The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

This week Nigel rescues a boat. By Barbara Hayes

"SAY, little chap, don't worry. I'll rescue your boat for you!"

It was Nigel talking—Nigel, the boy-friend of Stephanie, the town mouse.

You see, every Sunday morning, Nigel and Stephanie went for a walk in the park. Nigel thought they went for some fresh air and exercise, but actually they went so that Stephanie could show off how nice she looked in her smart clothes.

But this Sunday, as they walked along, they saw a little boy mouse looking very glum.

He had been sailing his boat on the boating pond, but just as the boat had reached the middle of the pond, the wind had dropped and the boat had stayed there.

"What shall I do?" sobbed the little chap. "It is a lovely boat that my daddy made for me himself. He will be cross if I go home without it."

"And if I waded into the pond after it, my mummy will be cross with me for spoiling my clothes. BOO HOOO BOO HOOO!"

Now Nigel was a very kind-hearted fellow.

"I say, Steve," he said to Stephanie, who liked to be called Steve in town, because it sounded smarter, "do you mind hanging on for a minute or two, while I go in and get that boat for the poor little fellow?"

Stephanie didn't mind a bit.

"All the fuss is attracting quite a crowd," she smiled, "and that means there will just be more people here to admire my clothes. That's all right, Nigel, you go ahead and rescue the boat as much as you like."

So Nigel patted the little boy on the head and said:

"I will take my shoes and socks off and roll up my trousers and wade in after that boat of yours, don't you worry."

"What will your mummy say if you get muddy water on your trousers?" gasped the little boy.

Nigel smiled.

"I'm too big for my mummy to be cross with me any more," he said.

Into the boating pond waded Nigel.

How muddy the water was.

Slurp! Slurp! SQUELCH! Slurp! Slurp! SQUELCH! his feet went as he lifted them in and out of the mud.

"Isn't he brave!"

"What a nice man that Nigel is!" everyone said, as they stood round the pond.

Stephanie even began to feel a bit cross, because people were looking at Nigel so much they weren't looking at her fine clothes.

She was just about to snap at Nigel to pick up the stupid boat for the silly boy and hurry out of the boring old boating pond, when who should walk up but Mr. and Mrs. Topdrawer, Stephanie's neighbours.

Now there was nothing Stephanie liked more than being better than Mrs. Topdrawer.

Stephanie saw her chance at once.

"Good morning, Mrs. Topdrawer," said Stephanie, with a happy smile. "You see that brave young man out there, being kind enough to rescue that pretty boat for that charming little boy? Well, that is my boy-friend, Nigel."

"Your husband hasn't rescued anything lately, has he? Well, we can't all be brave and kind, can we? I suppose I am just the sort of girl who would have a hero for a boy-friend. And if Mr. Top-

drawer isn't the hero type, then we all get what we deserve, I suppose."

Stephanie was really being very unkind, but the Topdrawers were used to it.

"I will think of a way to get my own back for those horrid remarks," thought Mrs. Topdrawer. But she knew she would have to think hard to outwit Stephanie.

Anyway, by this time, kind Nigel had got the boat back and given it to the little boy, who ran home very happily.

But poor Nigel had to walk home with muddy feet in squelchy shoes. And it was even worse, because Stephanie made him go the long way home, so that he could call in at the newspaper office and tell them all about his rescue of the boat.

"And don't forget to print that he was with his beautiful, smart girl-friend, Steve," Stephanie said to the newspaper reporter.

"Oh what a wonderful morning!" smiled Stephanie, as they, at last, reached home. "You were a marvellous boy-friend this morning, Nigel."

Nigel smiled to himself. "I believe the rescue made Steve even happier than it made the little boy," he thought.

There will be another mice story next week.

These are the questions about the story of The Merry Knight on page 9. When you have read the story, try to answer the questions about it. Then you can re-read the story to see if you were right.

1. What was the name of the Merry Knight?
2. What was the name of the great poet who wrote about him?
3. Where was the great poet born?
4. How many children did he have?
5. Who was the Merry Knight's great friend?





JASON AND THE Golden Fleece

To get his revenge on wicked King Pelias, who has stolen the throne of his father, Jason builds himself a great ship, called the Argo, to go in search of the Golden Fleece.

THE splendid ship Argo was ready, with space for fifty oarsmen, and now Jason had to find a gallant crew to go with him on his adventure.

"Call up the heroes of Greece," the Talking Bowsprit had told him.

This Jason did. The news spread far and wide that he needed men of stout hearts—and there were many who were thrilled to get the chance of such an adventure as finding the Golden Fleece. They came flocking to Jason, telling him that they were ready to row the ship to the farthest corners of the world.

"Thank you, my friends," said Jason, welcoming them aboard.

Many were old school-chums of Jason. The mighty Hercules, whose shoulders were strong enough to hold up the sky, was one of them. There were Castor and Pollux, the twin brothers, who had been hatched out of an egg but were not chicken-hearted; Theseus and Lynceus,

with his wonderfully sharp eyes; and Orpheus, who played on a harp so sweetly that wild animals stood on their hind legs and danced merrily to the music.

There was one beautiful young woman among the crew—the lovely Atalanta, who was so light on her feet that she could run faster than most men, and step from one wave-crest to another without getting more than the toe of her sandal wet.

Two others, and very likely to be most useful to Jason, were the two sons of the North Wind, who had wings on their shoulders. In case of calm weather when the sails would not work, they could puff out their cheeks and blow a fine fresh breeze.

Among others making up the crew was a star-gazer named Tiphys, who knew the position of every star in the sky, so Jason wisely made him the helmsman to steer the ship in the right direction. Lynceus, on account of his sharp sight, was made the ship's look-out.

At last everything was ready, and it was time to launch the Argo from the

sloping beach on which it had been built. And it was then that all the careful plans went wrong.

The ship was the biggest that had ever been built in Greece and all the strength of the new crew and Jason put together, could not budge it an inch towards the water. Hercules tried as hard as a dozen men but at that time he had not grown to his full strength, and not even he could make the Argo move. At last, they all sat wearily on the shore, too tired to try again. Some thought that the ship would stay there forever, until it rotted away and fell to pieces.

Seeing the sad faces around him, Jason wondered what to do and suddenly had the thought of asking the advice of the talking figure-head.

"O daughter of the Talking Oak," he said, "how shall we set to work to get our new ship into the water?"

"Take your seats in it," answered the figure-head. "Sit down and take up the oars but hold them upright. Then let Orpheus play on his harp."

At once Jason and his crew leapt eagerly aboard the Argo. Taking up the





DON LAWRENCE

heavy oars they held them upright, as they had been told.

"Now play your harp, Orpheus," said Jason.

"Willingly, good Jason," smiled Orpheus, who liked the idea of harp-playing much better than rowing. He ran his fingers over the harp-strings and at the first sweet note, they felt the ship move.

Orpheus strummed away and the Argo began to slide down the sloping beach towards the water, as though pushed by unseen hands. As it plunged into the water, the figure-head dipped deep into the foam, then rose again like a swan.

All on board gave a mighty cheer. At last the Argo had been launched! And Orpheus continued to play a lively tune, as the sails were raised to give more speed and the ship sailed bravely towards the open sea.

People on shore also cheered, all except one man—wicked King Pelias. He stood on a rock, scowling at the ship, hating the sight of Jason and his crew sailing so proudly away.

"I never thought that they would even launch such a ship, let alone sail it," he

growled. "But be that as it may, they will never get the Golden Fleece."

When the Argo was fifty miles away from land, Lynceus, the look-out, happened to cast his sharp eyes behind. He reported that he could still see the wicked King Pelias, standing on the rock and scowling so gloomily that he looked like a small black thundercloud.

To make the time pass more pleasantly during the voyage, the heroes aboard the Argo talked about the Golden Fleece. They knew well enough the story of how a brave ram had saved the life of a child, and then had died itself. In memory of this good deed, the fleece of the poor dead ram had been changed into pure gold—and now it hung upon a tree in a sacred grove many miles away. Anyone wishing to reach the Golden Fleece would have to pass through many dangers. But the more they spoke about it, the more eager were Jason and his heroes to face any sort of danger which might come to them.

Next week: They meet the birds with steel-tipped feathers like arrows.

Hallo, Boys and Girls,

If you have read the thrilling story on these two pages you will have learned that Jason was a hero of ancient Greece.

Greece is a sunny land in the Mediterranean (say "Med-it-er-rain-ee-an") Sea and as you grow older you will discover that there are many stories which have been handed down to us from the Greece of Jason's days.

There are so many heroes (which means "brave men") in these stories and so many exciting things were happening that we sometimes call that time in Greece's history "The Golden Age". I think that is a lovely name, do you?

Many people say that because so many new things are being done in the world of today that we are living in a new Golden Age.

How thrilling that is.

Your friend,
The Editor.



DON LAWRENCE

Names to Remember

Interesting facts about people and places and things in our World



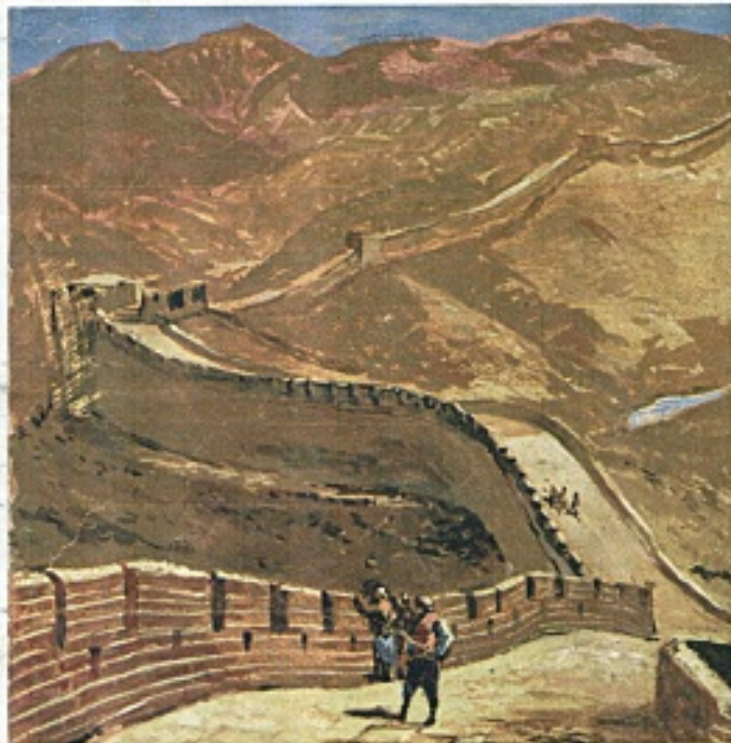
1. **The Revenge.** The little ship "Revenge" was one of the most famous in British history, being Sir Francis Drake's flagship in the great victory over the Spanish Armada. Later, with Sir Richard Grenville in command, the "Revenge" was attacked by 15 Spanish ships off the islands of the Azores in 1591. After 15 hours of fierce fighting, the gallant little ship surrendered.



2. **Sir Winston Churchill.** As a soldier, in the early part of his life, Winston Churchill was brave and adventurous, but he decided to give it up and become a Member of Parliament. In the last Great War he was chosen to lead the country as Prime Minister. Winston Churchill was born in 1874, and the whole world mourned the loss of a great man when he died in 1965.



3. **Tartan.** Tartan is made from woollen or worsted threads, close woven so that the lines of different colours cross each other at right angles. Tartans have been known in Scotland since the middle of the 15th century.



4. **The Great Wall of China.** The Great Wall of China, which is 1,500 miles long, was built as a defence for the Chinese people 2,000 years ago. It crosses high mountains and deep valleys and half a million workers were needed to build it.